



NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY AND INTENT TO ADOPT AN INITIAL STUDY/NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR THE PROPOSED VARNER HARBOR DREDGING PROJECT

Date: January 23, 2007

To: Interested Agencies, Organizations, and Individuals

The California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) has directed the preparation of and intends to adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the proposed project, in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and State CEQA Guidelines. DPR is the lead agency for the proposed project under CEQA.

PROJECT LOCATION: Salton Sea State Recreation Area, Riverside County

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT: The project is the dredging of the channel entrance to Varner Harbor, Salton Sea State Recreation Area, from the Salton Sea. Up to 8,000 cubic yards of material are expected to be removed from the channel for boat traffic. In addition, the channel's northern jetty would be rebuilt using rip rap materials, and the existing southern jetty would be reinforced with additional rip rap. The dredged material would be deposited on the beach immediately north of the northern jetty to restore the eroded beach. An additional 4,000 cubic yards of sediment are proposed for dredging from the channel within the next five years.

PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD: The Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration is being circulated for public review and comment for a period of 30 days, beginning January 23, 2007. Questions regarding the project should be directed to David Lawhead at (760) 767-4315 or by email at dlawhead@parks.ca.gov.

Your views and comments on this project are welcomed. Written comments should be submitted no later than February 23, 2007. They may be sent by mailing, fax, or e-mail to the following address, and must include a contact name and mailing address.

David Lawhead, Environmental Coordinator
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California Department of Parks and Recreation
200 Palm Canyon Drive
Borrego Springs, CA 94002
dlawhead@parks.ca.gov
(760) 767-3427

Copies of the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration may be reviewed online at: http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=983, or at the following locations during normal business hours:

California Department of Parks & Recreation
Salton Sea State Recreation Area, Sector Office
100-225 State Park Road
North Shore, CA 92254

California Department of Parks and Recreation
Colorado Desert District Office
200 Palm Canyon Drive
Borrego Springs, CA 92004

Coachella Branch Public Library
1538 Seventh Street
Coachella, CA 92236